

Remarks

Claims 1-35 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the claims is requested in view of the requested amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants' attorney discussed the rejection of claims 24-28 with Examiner McHenry in a telephone interview on September 3, 2003. The substance of the interview is discussed below.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection of Claims 1-5, 9-23, and 27-30

Claims 1-5, 9-23, and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11-18, 21, 22, 27, and 29 have been amended to address this rejection. The amendments do not narrow the literal scope of these claims.

In the rejection of claim 10, the action states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the phrase "the ideal profile". Applicants note that proper antecedent basis for this limitation is provided in independent claim 8. Thus, claim 10 in its current form is believed to satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection of Claims 24-28

Claims 24-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kazmierowicz, "The Science Behind Conveyor Oven Thermal Profiling" (Kazmierowicz). Applicants traverse this rejection and request that it be withdrawn.

In the interview, Applicants' attorney and Examiner McHenry discussed Kazmierowicz as applied to claim 24. The Examiner agreed that Kazmierowicz did not teach a means that generated a target profile from an ideal profile. In contrast to the claimed invention, the

Kazmierowicz process requires the operator to adjust the set points of an oven to some first guess, and a desired profile is then generated from the operator's first guess (but only after 2-3 iterations). The Examiner stated that the original language of claim 24 did not limit the structure of the claimed apparatus to a means for generating a target profile from an ideal profile, but rather just a means that is capable of this function. To further distinguish Kazmierowicz, the Examiner suggested amending claim 24 to positively recite that the ideal temperature profile is stored in memory on the computer.

Applicants disagree that claim 24 as originally drafted does not any contain structure that is patentable over Kazmierowicz. Although the Kazmierowicz apparatus includes a computer, its computer does not include "means for generating a target profile from an ideal temperature profile of the solder paste," as recited in original claim 24. Such means can be, for example, software executed on the computer that is capable of generating a target profile from an ideal temperature profile. The Kazmierowicz apparatus does not meet this claim limitation (i.e., nothing in the Kazmierowicz apparatus is capable of performing this function), and therefore does not anticipate original claim 24.

However, to facilitate prosecution, claim 24 has been amended to recite a computer comprising memory means on which there is stored a plurality of ideal parameters of the solder paste to be reflowed in the oven, wherein the ideal parameters define an ideal temperature profile. The computer also comprises means for generating a target profile from the ideal parameters, wherein the target profile includes a preheat phase, a soak phase and a reflow phase. Support for this amendment can be found at page 18, lines 1-21 of the present application.

Kazmierowicz does not teach or suggest memory means having a plurality of ideal parameters defining an ideal profile or means for generating a target profile from the ideal

parameters, as recited in amended claim 24. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 24 is requested.

Claims 25-28 depend from claim 24 and are patentable for the reasons set forth above in support of claim 24 and because each dependent claim is independently patentable.

III. New Claims

By this amendment, new claims 31-35 are added to the present application.

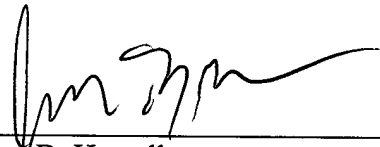
IV. Conclusion

The present application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any further issues remain concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned to discuss such matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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